

*This edition of the Education Newsletter shares more information about how members are involved in mentoring, more about ASPE’s mentoring program, how a chapter has grown a scouting program to help Scouts learn more about plumbing, and ways to utilize ASPE’s online education and training.*

## Mentoring in Our Industry

*by Society Vice President, Technical, David DeBord, CPD, GPD, LEED AP BD+C, ARCSA AP, FASPE*



While National Mentoring Month took place in January, and has done so every year since 2002, this is something to promote

year round. Did you know ASPE has a mentoring program of our own? You can even sign up as a mentor or a mentee on our website and it couldn’t be any easier to do so. If you have some experience that can help others, consider applying for a mentor position. If you seek a mentor, and ways to get better at your craft, sign up as a mentee. ASPE will then match

you up with a compatible counterpart. It is rewarding for both participants and I have been involved with this type of exchange for the better part of my career.

We benefit as mentors in several ways. When we teach, coach, or answer questions from our mentee, we may discover more of an understanding of the subject at hand. Sometimes the questions from the mentee force us to look at things from a different angle, and maybe more detail, that we previously took for granted. It helps the mentee, but it is an important part of our development too. As we see the mentee grow, we can experience a personal fulfillment. It is very exciting to see

your influence, affect another person in a positive way. It is amazing to me how little effort it takes to see a dramatic result. I love to see my mentees and students develop and to enjoy both professional and personal growth. This is very fulfilling.

And here is another benefit; we constantly participate in this interaction in our place of work, with our families, and maybe other activities. We are basically always in some level of mentorship. Why not try it here, where our efforts help to advance our industry? And we might be a better mentor in our personal lives just by calling attention to the fact that you are already involved in a two-way conversation with an industry peer. Brilliant!

*Want to share your Chapter’s educational successes or challenges? The Education Committee welcomes other chapters to submit articles to include in a future edition of our Education Newsletter. Email [education@aspe.org](mailto:education@aspe.org) to get started.*

### THE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

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# Mentoring Aspiring Engineers

By Education Committee Member, Ethan Grossman, P.E., CPD, LEED AP

Mentoring helps people understand the paths ahead of them and make decisions about how to utilize their potential. We all mentor each other in the workplace and in our family lives.

Recently, I participated in a mentoring program that pairs engineers with high school students. The program instructs you to create a mock project and the students choose if they want to be engineers, architects, or construction managers. Our project was to create a new train station. The students had to imagine what they would want a train station to include: community spaces, parking, retail, and all the practical spaces like ticket stations. We met once a week after school and helped them understand what goes into creating a building.

One exciting part of this exercise was to see the students explore their creativity and imagination. If you wanted to design a basketball court or swimming pool on the roof, let's go for it and discuss what it would entail.

On this project, I worked with four high school students to help them design the mechanical, electrical, and plumbing systems. We discussed utilities and distribution, fixtures and equipment. Whenever possible, I would apply some math to help them realize that what they were learning in school had some real practical value. An answer to the age-old question: "When am I ever going to use this?" We would discuss what they were learning in school and apply those skills to the building design. One example that sticks in my mind is a discussion we had on AC/DC power and those sine curves you learn about in trigonometry.



We had many discussions about career and education, too. The students asked me questions about college and career choices. It was a great feeling to share real world experiences and give them the encouragement to know that they could go after those opportunities.

Mentoring high school students has been a great experience for me and I'm glad my company encouraged me to take an active role in the program. Mentoring may inspire someone to study engineering. It may also remind the mentor of what inspires them. I encourage anyone to get involved with mentoring, and if plumbing engineering is your skill, ASPE's mentoring program may be a good fit for you.

To learn more about ASPE's mentoring program visit [aspe.org/aspe-mentoring-program](http://aspe.org/aspe-mentoring-program).

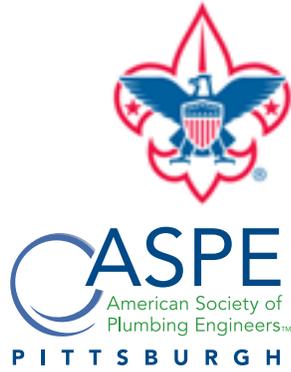
## 2017 CPDT Exam

REGISTRATION  
OPENS **JUNE 26**

**cpdt** CERTIFIED PLUMBING  
DESIGN TECHNICIAN

EXAM DATES:  
**October 5 & 6**

Visit [aspe.org/CPDT-Exam](http://aspe.org/CPDT-Exam) for eligibility requirements and to register.



# Boy Scouts of America: Plumbing Merit Badge & the ASPE Pittsburgh Chapter

By Jack Getkin, Pittsburgh Chapter Affiliate Liaison

## 10 YEARS OF SHAPING THE FUTURE

For the past 10 years, the ASPE Pittsburgh Chapter has supported scouting in our region by helping Boy Scouts of America explore their interest in the plumbing industry while working toward earning a Plumbing Merit Badge.

Boy Scouting came to the United States from England in 1910 and among the first group of merit badges a scout could earn was the Plumbing Merit Badge. For more than 100 years, Scouts across the United States have had the opportunity to learn about how the plumbing industry protects the health and safety of Americans and their families. Scouts have learned about local plumbing codes, how to draw drain, waste, vent, and water distribution piping plans, and the importance safety plays in completing plumbing installations and repairs.

Scouts have also been given the opportunity to develop basic plumbing skills such as soldering copper tubing and fittings, cutting, threading and joining steel pipe,

cleaning traps and drains, solvent welding plastic pipe and fittings, replacing faucet washers and more. All of the instructions have been provided by plumbing professionals each with decades of experience designing, installing, maintaining, and selling plumbing systems and equipment.

## PLUMBING IS MORE THAN THE PLUMBER

“Plumbing demands the very best, painstaking effort that thoroughly qualified, certified plumbers can give in every building, and especially where the systems are complicated and extensive, and where large numbers of people may be affected by contamination of water.” – Major Joe Connelly, Chief Inspector, Chicago Bureau of Sanitary Engineering – 1934.

Scouts who have participated in the Merit Badge classes are provided the opportunity to talk and work with plumbing industry professionals who possess experience in every aspect of residential and commercial plumbing. The opportunity to work directly with individuals who are experts in their field allow the Scouts

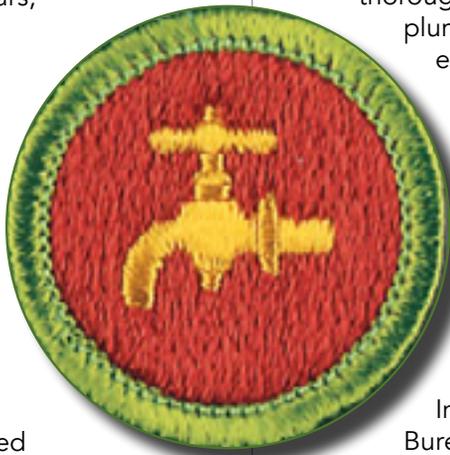
to explore and obtain information about a subject that interests them and which could become a career choice later in life.

Another goal of the Boy Scout of America merit badge program is to place Scouts in a situation where they are required to work with and learn from adults who they likely do not know. This experience allows the youth to communicate effectively with others, including individuals they just met.

Learning how to establish and develop a working relationship with individuals is a skill every youth should have the opportunity to develop. This is one reason why Scouts who have earned merit badges are typically more advanced than their non-Scouting counterparts. All of the instruction is completed within the guidelines established by the Boy Scouts of America in order to ensure the safety of the Scout.

## THE CLASSROOM

Ten of the 12 Plumbing Merit Badge courses presented by the ASPE Pittsburgh Chapter have been provided to Scouts who participate in the annual Merit Badge University. The merit badge program is coordinated by students and fraternity members of Alpha Phi Omega service fraternity at Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh,



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## Boy Scouts of America: Plumbing Merit Badge & the ASPE Pittsburgh Chapter

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PA. For more than 20 years, Alpha Phi Omega – Kappa Chapter has offered Merit Badge University giving local Scouts the opportunity to work toward earning a host of merit badges such as architecture, engineering, and plumbing.

Two additional Plumbing Merit Badge courses have been presented by the Pittsburgh and Johnstown Chapters as part of the Laurel Highlands Council, Boy Scouts of America Advancement Camp,

which is held at Camp Twin Echo nestled in the Laurel Highlands near New Florence, PA. Advancement Camp is an annual week-long summer camping opportunity for Scouts who choose to participate in an

unequaled learning experience at a traditional Boy Scout camp in an outdoor setting. Scouts who attend camp, are placed in a provisional unit and patrol, elect their own leaders, and attend classes in a merit badge grouping of their choice taught by local experts.

To present all the information included in the Plumbing Merit Badge requirements, the course is structured into two sessions. During the first session, Scouts learn about local regulations related to plumbing and how these regulations protect health and safety. Scouts also learn how plumbing plans are drawn, the information contained on the plans, and the symbols used. Instructors review with the Scouts, how a home hot water and cold water supply



system work, how it is made safe from freezing, what force in nature causes water to flow through the drainage system in a house, and the importance of vents. Near the end of the first session,

Scouts are given a preview of the all hands-on instruction included in the second session by learning how to and then demonstrating how to replace a faucet washer. During the time between the first and second sessions, Scouts prepare plumbing drawings and complete other written requirements.

The second session is devoted to hands-on requirements of soldering copper tubing and fittings, cutting/threading/joining steel pipe, and cleaning a sink trap. These requirements along with additional plumbing skills are presented at "stations" each staffed by a knowledgeable adult plumbing professional. Scouts rotate through the stations so that each Scout is allowed sufficient time to complete the necessary tasks and talk with the adult about why they chose plumbing as their career.

## HOW WE MAKE IT HAPPEN

Serving as the Pittsburgh Chapter Affiliate Liaison I am also a Scouting volunteer/merit badge counselor, and a master plumber. I take the lead to coordinate the efforts of the Pittsburgh Chapter members and other volunteers. However, this is not a one-person task. Without the dedication, commitment, and support of the Pittsburgh Chapter along with the support of other organizations and individuals, the Boy Scout of America merit badge classes would not occur.



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*If you would like additional information on how to establish a Boy Scout of America merit badge program within your chapter, please feel free to contact me, Jack Getkin, at 412-600-9453 or via email at [jackg@herrmann-assoc.com](mailto:jackg@herrmann-assoc.com).*

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# Educational Program & Tools

*Did you know? ASPE can help members and industry professionals earn CEUs required for maintaining Certified in Plumbing Design (CPD) or Certified Plumbing Design Technician (CPDT) status, in addition to numerous regulatory-agency CE programs. Some state PE boards too, but there are some variations*

## READ, LEARN, EARN

At any given moment, there are 13 articles and quizzes available online that award 1 hour or 0.1 CEUs. The topics range from compressed air systems to water treatment, with a wide variety of topics. These aren't only available for a limited time, though. They are kept in the archives for retrieval and learning at a later time. If one is diligent and completes these monthly, they will fulfill their 24 hours or 2.4 CEU minimum requirements at no additional cost to members. Each article is FREE for ASPE members and \$35 to nonmembers.

## WEBINARS

There are dozens of archived webinars on our website. Some examples are ethics, high-rise plumbing systems, ASHRAE 188, several medical gas topics, domestic water systems and sizing, fire protection, and unique systems such as clean agents. All of our live recorded webinars are placed into our archives until they're no longer applicable or the codes are updated, but the learning never ends with our webinar series. There is something for everyone here! If your chapter is stuck in a rut and needs a last minute presentation, consider using one of the archived webinars to share knowledge with your chapter members.

## MORE TOOLS

These areas are in addition to our regional workshops, annual conferences, and our long list of technical publications. ASPE also provides Workshops, Technical Symposia, and a selection of Technical Publications. Go to [aspe.org](http://aspe.org) and look for these tools. These tools are here to help you to enhance your skills. Take advantage of them.

**Don't leave KNOWLEDGE on the table!**

# ASPE | 2017 Tech Symposium

**October 19-22, 2017** Hotel Bonaventure Montréal | Montréal, Québec



## New This Year...

### Full-Day Intermediate Plumbing System Design Workshop

*This exciting new workshop on Saturday, October 21 will cover natural gas, domestic hot and cold water, sanitary waste and vent, and storm drainage systems. It is available to full conference attendees only and is limited to 20 individuals. You will receive 0.6 CEUs (6 hours) for participating in this course, which is equivalent to what you would earn for participating in the four breakout sessions on the same day at the Technical Symposium.*

Register now at [2017tech.aspe.org](http://2017tech.aspe.org)